Office for National Statistics

Statistical bulletin

Index of Services, UK: October 2020

Movements in the volume of output for the UK services industries. Figures are seasonally adjusted.

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1 . Main points

- There was a rise of 0.2% in the Index of Services between September 2020 and October 2020; the largest contribution to monthly growth was human health and social work activities, rising by 2.0%.

- In October 2020, the Index of Services was 8.6% below February 2020, the previous month of "normal" trading conditions, prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

- There were four industries that failed to reach 50% of their pre-February 2020 level; these were travel agencies, air transport, rail transport, and creative, arts and entertainment.

- Total services output increased by 9.7% for the three months to October 2020, compared with the three months to July 2020; this was led by accommodation and food service activities, rising by 187.2%.

- Services output between the three months to October 2019 and the three months to October 2020 decreased by 9.0%.

- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had a significant negative impact on output of the services industries during October 2020; for further and detailed analysis of the effect on our monthly Index of Services estimate, please see our article Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy, UK: October 2020, published today (10 December 2020).

2 . Index of Services data

Index of Services time series
Dataset | Dataset ID: IOS1 | Released 10 December 2020
Monthly movements in output for the services industries: distribution, hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communication; business services and finance; and government and other services.

Monthly Business Survey turnover of services industries
Dataset | Released 10 December 2020
Monthly Business Survey services industries' total turnover; current price and non-seasonally adjusted, UK.

Index of Services, main components and sectors to four decimal places
Dataset | Released 10 December 2020
Monthly historical movements in output for services and their industry components, by chained volume indices of gross value added, UK.

Index of Services revisions triangles
Dataset | Released 10 December 2020
Monthly chained volume indices in gross value added for services and its main components.

All data related to the Index of Services are available on the Related data page.

3 . Measuring data

Data sources and collection

The Index of Services (IoS) is compiled using data from several different sources:

- ONS: Monthly Business Survey (44.4%)

- ONS: Retail Sales Inquiry (6.4%)

- ONS: Government Expenditure (20.1%)

- ONS: Households' Expenditure (15.3%)

- ONS: Finance Expenditure (7.8%)

- Other (5.9%)

The Monthly Business Survey (MBS) data are published alongside this release in MBS turnover in services industries.

Data relating to the retail industry are broadly comparable with Retail sales, Great Britain: October 2020, published on 20 November 2020.

For further information on what is included within Other, please see the GDP(o) data sources catalogue.

Percentage of each data source is based on their gross value added weight. The GDP(o) methods and sources pages provide more information on the data that underpin these statistics; of particular note is the GDP(o) data sources catalogue.

From February 2018, Value Added Tax (VAT) data have also been included across 64 production industries for small- and medium-sized businesses. For more information, see VAT turnover data in national accounts: background and methodology.

Quality and methodology

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the Index of Services QMI.

End of EU exit transition period

After the transition period ends on 31 December 2020, the UK statistical system will continue to collect and produce our wide range of economic and social statistics. We are committed to continued alignment with international statistical standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally and we will work with users of statistics to make sure they have the data they need to support the decisions they have to make.

Additionally, the Withdrawal Agreement outlines a need for UK gross national income (a fundamental component of the national accounts, which includes GDP) statistics to remain in line with those of other EU countries until EU budget contributions are finalised for the years in which we were a member, and making budget contributions during the transition period. To ensure this comparability during this period, the national accounts will continue to be produced according to European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010 definitions and standards until at least 2024.

As the shape of the UK's future statistical relationship with the EU becomes clearer over the coming period, the ONS is making preparations to assume responsibilities that as part of our membership of the EU, and during the transition period, were delegated to the statistical office of the EU, Eurostat. This includes responsibilities relating to international comparability of economic statistics, deciding what international statistical guidance to apply in the UK context and to provide further scrutiny of our statistics and sector classification decisions.

In applying international statistical standards and best practice to UK economic statistics, we will draw on the technical advice of experts in the UK and internationally, and our work will be underpinned by the UK's well-established and robust framework for independent official statistics, set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Further information on our proposals will be made available in early 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Monthly Business Survey is fully online, meaning that business owners can log on from any location and submit their data at an appropriate time. Most other data in the Index of Services comes from within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and therefore will be less impacted than survey data. Our latest data and analysis on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK economy and population is now available on anew webpage. This will be the hub for all special virus-related publications, drawing on all available data.

The ONS has released a public statement on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the production of statistics. Specific queries must be directed to the Media Relations Office.

4 . Related links

Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy, UK: October 2020
Article | Released 10 December 2020
Analysis of monthly growth for the production, services and construction industries in the UK economy between September and October 2020, highlighting the early impact from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

A comparison between official estimates of UK output and diffusion indices
Article | Released 21 October 2019
The level of correlation between Office for National Statistics (ONS) data and IHS Markit and Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Purchasing Managers' Indices.

GDP monthly estimate, UK: October 2020
Bulletin | Released 10 December 2020
Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of and growth in the economy and includes the Index of Production (IoP), Index of Services (IoS) and construction output in Great Britain.

Services sector performance, UK: 2008 to 2018
Article | Released 2 April 2019
The article details the changes that have taken place in the UK services sector from 2008 to 2018. It also looks at the differences between public sector-dominated sectors and the rest of the Index of Services (IoS) and compares the growth of individual IoS sectors in more detail.

Index of Production, UK: October 2020
Bulletin | Released 10 December 2020
Movements in the volume of production for the UK production industries: manufacturing, mining and quarrying, energy supply, and water and waste management.

IOS: Index of Services [1]
Chained volume indices of gross value added [2,3,4]

seasonally adjusted 2018 = 100

			Industry sections (SIC2007)		
	Total service industries	Distribution hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Business services and finance	Govern- ment and other services
Section	G-T	G and I	H and J	K-N	O-T
2018 weights	**1000**	**169**	**134**	**420**	**276**
	S2KU	S2MV	KI7B	KI7L	KI7T
2015	95.6	92.7	91.6	95.6	99.5
2016	97.1	95.5	93.8	97.9	98.7
2017	98.5	97.3	96.7	98.9	99.4
2018	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2019	101.8	102.5	105.1	100.5	101.7
2019 Q3	101.6	102.7	105.4	100.9	101.9
Q4	102.1	102.5	105.3	100.9	102.5
2020 Q1	99.6	97.7	102.5	100.4	98
Q2	80.4	64.2	84.5	89.3	74.8
Q3	91.8	96.3	93.5	93.2	86.2
2019 Aug	102.1	102.7	105.0	101.0	102.0
Sep	102.0	102.5	105.5	100.7	102.0
Oct	102.4	102.9	106.0	101.1	102.2
Nov	102.0	102.3	104.6	100.7	102.6
Dec	102.3	102.3	105.4	101.0	102.8
2020 Jan	102.4	103.4	104.4	101.1	102.9
Feb	102.2	102.9	104.4	101.1	102.2
Mar	94.1	86.9	98.6	98.8	89.0
Apr	77.3	53.3	81.5	88.7	72.8
May	78.7	60.2	82.1	88.1	74.2
Jun	85.2	79.2	90.0	91.2	77.5
Jul	90.1	91.8	93.2	92.6	83.6
Aug	92.2	99.3	93.2	93.0	86.2
Sep	93.2	97.7	94.2	94.0	88.6
Oct	93.4	95.9	95.2	94.2	89.7
Percentage change, latest year on previous year					
	S222	S243	KI77	KI7G	KI7O
2015	2.5	3.8	4.2	2.3	1.1
2016	1.6	3.1	2.4	2.4	-0.8
2017	1.4	1.8	3.1	1.0	0.7
2018	1.6	2.8	3.4	1.1	0.6
2019	1.8	2.5	5.1	0.5	1.7
Percentage change, latest month on same month a year ago					
	S26Q	S28R	KI7A	KI7I	KI7Q
2019 Aug	1.7	1.7	4.0	0.9	1.9
Sep	1.6	2.1	3.6	0.6	2.0
Oct	1.5	1.7	4.3	0.4	1.7
Nov	1.0	0.3	2.5	-	2.1
Dec	1.4	1.6	1.4	0.8	2.3
2020 Jan	1.3	1.4	-	1.1	2.3
Feb	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.8	1.2
Mar	-7.2	-15.1	-5.5	-1.4	-12.0
Apr	-23.7	-48.0	-22.4	-11.3	-28.0
May	-22.4	-41.2	-21.9	-12.0	-26.7
Jun	-16.3	-22.7	-14.6	-9.3	-23.8
Jul	-11.8	-10.7	-12.0	-8.2	-17.8
Aug	-9.7	-3.3	-11.1	-7.9	-15.5
Sep	-8.7	-4.6	-10.7	-6.7	-13.1
Oct	-8.8	-6.9	-10.2	-6.8	-12.2

IOS: Index of Services [1]
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	Industry sections (SIC2007)				
	Total service industries	Distribution hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Business services and finance	Govern-ment and other services
Section	G-T	G and I	H and J	K-N	O-T
2018 weights	**1000**	**167**	**135**	**426**	**272**

Percentage change, latest month on previous month

		S222	S243	KI77	KI7G	KI7O
2019	Aug	-	-0.1	-0.9	0.1	0.3
	Sep	-0.1	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	-
	Oct	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2
	Nov	-0.3	-0.6	-1.3	-0.4	0.4
	Dec	0.3	-	0.8	0.2	0.3
2020	Jan	0.1	1.0	-1.0	0.2	0.1
	Feb	-0.3	-0.5	0.1	-	-0.7
	Mar	-7.9	-15.6	-5.6	-2.3	-12.9
	Apr	-17.8	-38.7	-17.3	-10.3	-18.2
	May	1.8	13.0	0.7	-0.6	1.9
	Jun	8.2	31.6	9.5	3.4	4.5
	Jul	5.7	15.8	3.6	1.6	7.9
	Aug	2.4	8.2	0.1	0.4	3.0
	Sep	1.0	-1.6	1.0	1.1	2.8
	Oct	0.2	-1.9	1.1	0.2	1.2

Percentage change, latest 3 months on same 3 months a year ago

		S2G6	S2I7	KI7C	KI7J	KI7R
2019	Aug	1.9	1.7	5.6	0.8	1.9
	Sep	1.8	1.7	4.8	0.8	1.9
	Oct	1.6	1.8	3.9	0.6	1.9
	Nov	1.4	1.3	3.5	0.4	1.9
	Dec	1.3	1.2	2.7	0.4	2.1
2020	Jan	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.6	2.2
	Feb	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.9	1.9
	Mar	-1.7	-4.4	-1.8	0.1	-2.8
	Apr	-10.1	-20.8	-9.3	-4.0	-13.0
	May	-17.8	-34.8	-16.6	-8.2	-22.3
	Jun	-20.8	-37.3	-19.6	-10.9	-26.2
	Jul	-16.8	-24.9	-16.2	-9.8	-22.8
	Aug	-12.6	-12.2	-12.6	-8.4	-19.0
	Sep	-10.0	-6.2	-11.3	-7.6	-15.5
	Oct	-9.0	-4.9	-10.7	-7.1	-13.6

Percentage change, latest 3 months on previous 3 months

		S2BG	S2DH	KI7D	KI7K	KI7S
2019	Aug	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7
	Sep	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6
	Oct	0.3	0.1	-	0.4	0.5
	Nov	0.1	-0.1	-	0.1	0.4
	Dec	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.6
2020	Jan	0.1	-	-0.6	-	0.7
	Feb	0.2	0.3	-0.6	0.2	0.4
	Mar	-2.6	-4.7	-2.7	-0.5	-4.4
	Apr	-10.8	-21.1	-9.5	-4.7	-14.4
	May	-18.5	-35.1	-16.5	-9.1	-23.4
	Jun	-19.2	-34.3	-17.5	-11.0	-23.7
	Jul	-7.1	-4.9	-6.8	-5.8	-10.8
	Aug	6.9	34.9	5.4	0.4	4.8
	Sep	14.2	49.9	10.6	4.4	15.2
	Oct	9.7	26.7	6.5	3.4	12.4